

Claims

We Claim:

1. A system for making a digital image, stored in a portable memory device, available over a computer network through an online server comprising:

a computer having a memory;

a portable memory device reader, communicatively connected to the computer and being selectively coupleable to the portable memory device;

an image transfer module, connected to the portable memory device reader and configured to detect the coupling of the portable memory device to said reader and to copy the digital image from the portable memory device to the computer memory, by way of said reader;

a file uploader module, communicatively connected to the image transfer module and configured to send the digital image to the online server, connected to the computer network; and

the online server, being selectively connected to the file uploader module and being configured to automatically accept, store and make available over the computer network the digital image.

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a billing and provisioning system, connected to the online server and including a relational database, the billing and provisioning system being configured to store user accounts in the database.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the online server includes one or more albums, each album being associated with a single user, and wherein at least one album includes a folder.

4. The system of claim 3 further comprising an album tools module which allows a user to manipulate, delete, and create folders in an album that is associated with the user.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein each folder possesses distinct privacy settings.

6. A method for making a digital image, stored in a portable memory device, available over a computer network comprising the steps of:

inserting the portable memory device into a portable memory device reader;

reading the image at the portable memory device;

copying the image to computer memory using an image transfer module, residing on a local computer connected to the network;

sending the image over a computer network to an online photo album server by a file uploader module; and

and making the image available over the computer network by the online photo album server.

7. The method of claim 6 further including the steps of creating a photo album in the online server by a user.

8. The method of claim 7 further including the step of placing the image in the photo album.

9. The method of claim 7 further including the step of deleting a photoalbum.

10. A system for making a digital image, stored in a portable memory device, available over a computer network through an online server comprising:

a computer having a memory;

an electronic device, communicatively connected to the computer and being capable of storing digital images;

an image transfer module, connected to the electronic device and configured to detect the presence of stored digital images in the electronic device and to copy the digital images from the electronic device to the computer memory, by way of said reader;

a file uploader module, communicatively connected to the image transfer module and configured to send the digital image to the online server, connected to the computer network; and

the online server, being selectively connected to the file uploader module and being configured to automatically accept, store and make available over the computer network the digital image.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the online server includes one or more albums, each album being associated with a single user, and wherein at least one album includes a folder.

12. The system of claim 11 further comprising an album tools module which allows a user to manipulate, delete, and create folders in an album that is associated with the user.

13. The system of claim 4 wherein each folder possesses distinct privacy settings.